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man died on the 13th and the second one the next day, and suspicions were aroused that the disease was not influenza. Two more sailors becoming ill were sent to the hospital and died, and Wednesday, January 16, the vessel was taken away from dock and anchored in the stream, and all the crew confined on board or sent to hospital. Besides the 2 men who died in hospital, 3 others were ill and sent there, but they are convalescent without a positive diagnosis.

So far as known, all cases of plague have died. A post-mortem was held on the first death in hospital and the diagnosis of plague confirmed. In one instance, the plague bacillus was found in the lung in almost pure culture. It would seem safe to suppose, therefore, that the 5 deaths from among this crew were all from plague. The symptoms in all cases were indefinite, and suggested influenza. There was fever, and general aches and pains, some cough, but very little expectoration, and not the usual pneumonic symptoms. In no instance was there any glandular enlargement.

The danger from this vessel lies in the fact that she came to dock and was there for several days, and was visited by numerous people, while 3 of the men died on board of her. On my visit to Hull, the vessel was anchored in stream, and all the crew were either on board or had been sent to hospital. There had been no cases in the town, and everybody who had been in any way in contact with the crew or vessel was under medical observation.

One of the physicians who had attended these cases has been ill, but a diagnosis has not been made. As regards the source of infection on board this vessel, the most probable source would seem to be Alexandria, although this port at the time of sailing of the *Friary* was supposed to be free from plague, and clean bills of health were being issued. However, the period that elapsed from the time of leaving Alexandria, December 22, to the time of sickness of the Greek sailor, January 8, is longer than the usual incubation period of plague. Inquiries made concerning rats showed that 2 dead rats had been found on board, and a cat that came on board in Alexandria became ill, but unfortunately was thrown overboard in the Humber, so no bacteriological examination was possible. A dog on board will be examined for the plague bacillus. I will endeavor to obtain further information from Hull, and will report at a later date.

Respectfully, A. R. THOMAS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

History of plague on the steamship Highland Prince.

LONDON, ENGLAND, *January 22, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to give the following history of the steamship *Highland Prince*, which arrived in the Tyne, January 11, 1901:

This vessel has been engaged in the trade between the Rio Plata and European ports for several voyages. On the last trip, but one, she sailed from Rosario for Antwerp with a cargo of maize, bran, linseed, etc., and arrived at Antwerp August 17, where she discharged part of her cargo and took on some cargo for Montevideo, leaving for London, August 30, and arriving there September 1, where the remainder of the cargo was discharged and more cargo taken aboard. She took on part of crew at Antwerp and the remainder in London, and sailed from the latter port September 7, with a crew of 27 men and 11 passengers. On September 18, ten days after leaving London, some rats were noticed on deck, in a dazed condition, "as if they had been drugged or were drunk." They were caught and thrown overboard, and soon after a few dead rats were seen about the ship. The cook stated that one morning on rising he stepped on something that proved to be a dead rat, and that same morning found 3 rats dead in his washbowl. September 24, the cook sickened. September 29, the first officer was ill and died October 1. A child of one of the passengers sickened and died, and the mother sickened soon afterwards, but recovered. The captain also became ill and died October 5, and the cook died October 8.

About October 1, the vessel lay off Bahia, Brazil, and medical aid was summoned, the diagnosis of plague was confirmed and medicines and directions for treatment left on board, and after twenty-four hours delay the vessel proceeded to Montevideo. Ten other members of the crew and passengers were more or less ill during this voyage and are supposed to have suffered from pestis minor.

The vessel arrived at Montevideo on October 10, and was held in quarantine ten days and disinfected, then proceeded to Buenos Ayres, where she discharged in quarantine and reached Rosario on November 7. Here the new cook who was engaged and the donkeyman became ill and were sent to hospital, the diagnosis being plague. The donkeyman's history is that the donkey pump becoming blocked, he was ordered to remove the obstruction and found it to be a dead rat. This he removed with his hands, contrary to instructions. While at Rosario the vessel was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and it is stated that at least 300 (?) dead rats were removed from the after peak. Since leaving Rosario, November 17, there has been nothing of note aboard this vessel, and she arrived in the Tyne all well. One man was removed to hospital with lumbago.

She is now discharging in dock, after having all available parts washed down with a bichloride solution. She is moored 6 feet from the dock, the hawsers are protected by funnels and no gang planks allowed out. The symptoms of the illness aboard this vessel on the voyage out, as given by the engineer, are as follows: Fever and pains, a dry and heavily furred tongue, large swellings in the groins, pain in the back, and a mottled rash.

The theory as to the introduction of plague aboard this vessel, is that infected rats were taken on board at Rosario, at the time the vessel loaded her cargo of grain, but why the disease did not manifest itself until after leaving London is not explained. At neither Antwerp nor London have the rats about the docks shown any signs of infection. I am indebted to the courtesy of the quarantine officer for the Tyne for most of the above facts.

Respectfully, A. R. THOMAS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

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